

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. Cancelled

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A connector assembly according to claim 1, A~~  
connector assembly for a flat wire member including conductors and an end portion split into a plurality of split pieces, comprising:

a first connector including terminals accommodated therein; and

a plurality of second connectors for respectively holding split pieces of the flat wire member in a state that portions of the conductors are exposed;

wherein the first connector includes a plurality of coupling portions to be respectively coupled with the plurality of second connectors, and the terminals are so accommodated in the first connector as to be brought into contact with the exposed portions of conductors of the flat wire member when the second connectors are respectively coupled with the coupling portions, wherein the coupling portions of the first connector are arranged on one side of the first connector side by side in widthwise direction of the flat wire member.

3. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 2, wherein the first connector further includes an insertion portion which is provided at a side opposite from the side where the coupling portions are arranged and which receives an end portion of a second flat wire member, with each terminal being brought into contact with a corresponding conductor of the second flat wire member to connect the conductor of the second flat wire member with a corresponding conductor of the flat wire member held by the second connectors.

4-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 2, wherein the first connector includes a female housing formed with a plurality of cavities to respectively receive the split ends of the flat wire member held by the second connectors, and the terminals are accommodated in the cavities.

8. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 2, wherein each of the second connectors includes a holder for holding the split end of the flat wire member and a housing for retaining the split end on the holder with portions of conductors of the flat wire member being exposed of the housing to be brought into contact with the corresponding terminals of the first connector.

9. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 2, wherein the terminals of the first connector are connected with a circuit on a circuit board or a second flat wire member.

10.-12. (Cancelled)